

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-08 OMB-01
TRSE-00 OES-09 ACDA-12 PA-01 ICA-11 NEAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8317
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, MUNC, PK, US, FR
SUBJECT: URDU PUBLICATION EDITORIALIZES ON REPROCESSING CONTRACT
CANCELLATION

REF: ISLAMABAD 7216

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF EDITORIAL
APPEARING JULY 24 IN MUSAWAAT, URDU DAILY PUBLISHED AT LAHORE.

2. QUOTE: MATTER OF PAKISTAN'S SURVIVAL.

AT LAST, UNDER PRESSURE OF A BIG POWER, THE DEAL
REGARDING SALE OF A REPROCESSING PLANT TO PAKISTAN BY FRANCE
HAS BEEN PUT INTO A COLD STORAGE. THIS IS A MATTER OF GRAVE
CONCERN FOR THE PEOPLES OF PAKISTAN AND BROTHERLY ARAB COUNTRIES.
A POWER THAT CLAIMED OPENLY THAT IT WOULD NOT GO BACK UPON
ITS WORD IS NOW GIVING THE IMPRESSION OF BACKING OUT EVEN
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THOUGH NO OFFICIAL REACTION FROM FRANCE IS FORTHCOMING.

3. AGHA SHAHI WAS ON A FOREIGN TOUR AT THE TIME OF
IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW. CANADA HAD UNILATERALLY
CUT OFF THE SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR KANUPP BUT RESTORED NUCLEAR
AID TO INDIA WHO HAD CONDUCTED A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION AND IS
NOT WILLING TO SIGN NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

PAKISTAN HAS ALREADY SIGNED THE TREATY. SOMETIME BACK AN IMPORTANT US OFFICIAL CAME TO ISLAMABAD FOR TALKS ON THE PLANT BUT THE ML ADMINISTRATION THOUGHT IT FIT TO KEEP IT SECRET. EFFORTS ARE CONTINUING TO HAVE THE DEAL CANCELLED. NO PATRIOTIC GOVERNMENT CAN AFFORD TO IGNORE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLANT FOR PAKISTAN AND THERE IS A CONSENSUS THAT THIS PLANT MUST BE ACQUIRED. THERE ARE REPORTS NOW THAT A FRENCH NUCLEAR EXPERT HAS URGED PAKISTAN TO START NEGOTIATION FOR A CO-PROCESSING PLANT AND (SINCE THAT EXPERT CAME TO PAKISTAN FOR THE SECOND TIME) SHOWS THAT PAKISTAN DID COME OUT WITH A CLEAR-CUT STAND. IT IS BEING ARGUED THAT PAKISTAN SHOULD GO IN FOR A CO-PROCESSING PLANT AS IT DOES NOT PRODUCE PLUTONIUM. SUCH A PLANT IS RELATIVELY NEW AND NO ONE CAN BE SURE OF ITS RELIABILITY AND HENCE PAKISTAN CANNOT AFFORD TO UNDERGO SUCH AN EXPENSIVE EXPERIMENT. THIS IS NOTHING BUT AN ATTEMPT TO DEPRIVE PAKISTAN OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.

4. THE PLANT IS ESSENTIAL FOR PROGRESS, PROSPERITY AND SURVIVAL OF PAKISTAN. HIGH OFFICIALS FROM AMERICA AND FRANCE ARE VISITING PAKISAN TO HAVE THE DEAL CANCELLED. SINCE THIS INVOLVES PAKISTAN'S SURVIVAL, STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN FOR ITS EARLY INSTALLATION. THE MAJORITY OF THE FRENCH FIRMS WORKING ON THE PLANT AT CHASMA BARRAGE HAVE STOPPED WORK AND THE DEAL FOR A BUS MANUFACTURING PLANT HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED AS YET. WE SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAKE A FIRM STAND NOW INSISTING FRANCE STICK TO ITS AGREEMENT -- THE WAY THE PREVIOUS DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN HELD FIRM AND RESISTED FOREIGN PRESSURES TO CANCEL THE DEAL. END QUOTE.

5. COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF COMMENT PROFESSING TO KNOW THE REPROCESSING PLANT DEAL HAS BEEN SCRAPPED. MUSAWAAT ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO REINITIATED PUBLICATION AFTER BEING CLOSED DOWN BY THE MLA FOR ITS CRITICISM OF THE MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES.
HUMMEL

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